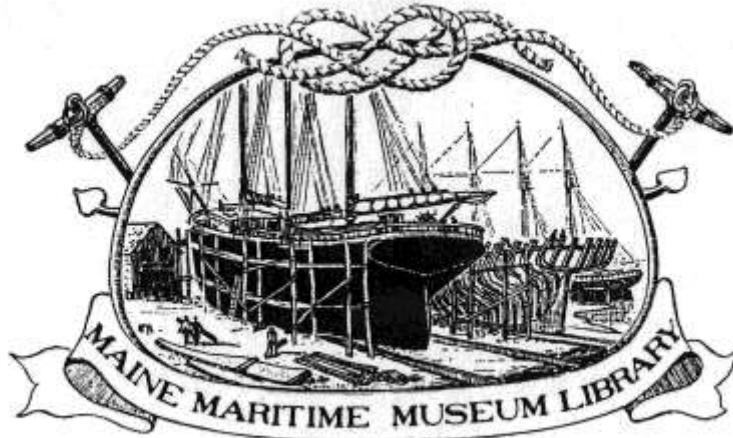


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**Inventory for
Manuscript Collection
MS-462**

**Steamboat Inspection Service Records, New
London, Connecticut**
Inclusive dates 1855 - 1894

by
Nathan R. Lipfert

March 2016

Number of Boxes: ½
Eight folders
Accession # 2006.087.01

A PART OF THE CAPTAIN W. J. LEWIS PARKER BEQUEST

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Abstract

Steamboat Inspection Service, New London, Connecticut

Records, 1855-1894

½ box, eight folders

An agency of the Department of the Treasury of the United States, in this time period.

Files of certificates (licenses) granted by United States Inspectors to masters, mates, pilots and engineers of steam vessels at New London, CT. Most of these certificates are for men with surnames beginning with B or C.

Bequeathed by Capt. W. J. Lewis Parker in 2006.

MS-462, Accession # 2006.087.01

Finding aid in repository; folder level control.

Added Entries—People

Amidon, Isaac C.

Beckwith, Elisha P.

Cranston, Richmond

Daboll, C. M.

Hovey, Philo B.

Added Entries—Places

New London (CT)

Added Entries—Corporate bodies (including vessels)

Steamboat Inspection Service

Added Entries—Key terms

Masters

Mates

Engineers

Pilots

Acquisition

These records from the New London Steamboat Inspection Service were bequeathed to Maine Maritime Museum from the estate of Captain W. J. Lewis Parker in November and December 2006.

Provenance

Captain Parker was an extremely knowledgeable collector. He picked up many parts of his collection of maritime papers by purchase from dealers, auctions, or estate sales, or by gifts from relatives of maritime figures. We have found no documentation of how he acquired this particular group of manuscripts. These records were found in his study with similar items, and were part of his maritime library which he bequeathed Maine Maritime Museum.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of these materials for study or research. Researchers should seek permission to obtain copies, and for publication of any sort.

Physical Condition

Other than the usual surface dirt and minor tears, the manuscripts in this collection have no physical problems. Overall, the records of the New London Steamboat Inspection Service are in good condition.

Historical Note

The federal government licensed officers of steam vessels long before becoming concerned about licensing officers under sail. The Steamboat Inspection Service was an agency of the Department of the Treasury from its creation in 1852 to 1903, the time when the records in this group were created. These records must at one time have been in the present New London Customs House, which dates to 1833. However, the current National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) does not keep these license certificates for officers, and so they must have been dispersed in some fashion when the other antique records were sent from New London to NARA in Washington, D.C.

Good information on these types of documents can be found in Douglas L. Stein's *American Maritime Documents, 1776-1860* (Mystic Seaport, 1992).

Scope and Content Note

These records are almost exclusively files of certificates (licenses) granted by United States Inspectors to masters, mates, pilots and engineers of steam vessels. There are also certificates for special engineers, joint licenses for pilots/engineers of open steam launches, and a certificate of lost or destroyed license.

Some of these certificates, such as the ones for pilots, were required to be renewed annually. This record group contains examples of this, with multiple certificates for the same man, dated one year apart.

Folder and Content Listing

Box # Folder#

1 1 Pilot's Certificate, 1855, John E. Whittlesey

- 2 United States Inspectors Certificate to Master of Steam Vessels,
1874, John D. Beckwith
- 3 United States Inspectors Certificate to Special Engineers of Steam
Vessels, 1887-1889
October 8, 1887, Thomas Jefferson
December 8, 1887, William E. Johnson
April 4, 1889, Thos. Cumming
May 28, 1889, Chas. J. Chadwick
July 12, 1889, Chas. Champlin
July 23, 1889, Lewis H. Jones
July 29, 1889, Horace E. Clark
- 4 United States Inspectors Certificate to Mate of Steam Vessels,
1892, Albert Lester
- 5 Unites States Inspectors Certificate to Engineers, 1871-1894
August 10, 1871, Wm. A. Briggs
September 1, 1876, Jesse Bradley
June 2, 1877, Geo. W. Brayman
January 3, 1878, Dickinson D. Beebe
February 7, 1878, John O. Beebe
May 21, 1879, Geo. W. Burbank
June 7, 1879, John Burke
June 16, 1879, Palmer C. Brooks
August 5, 1879, Andrew H.[J.?] Breed
August 19, 1879, Albert M. Beebe
September 18, 1879, L. D. Baldwin
November 1, 1880, Willis P. Bowen
June 19, 1883, Gilbert A. Jones
July 2, 1885, Lewis H. Jones
February 26, 1887, John C. Curnias
March 12, 1887, Simon F. Coit
April 12, 1887, Thos. Campbell
July 28, 1888, Chas. T. Jones
October 9, 1888, Henry A. Crocker
June 5, 1889, Russel C. Champlin
June 6, 1889, William H. Cone
September 23, 1889, Geo. M. Chase Jr.
October 7, 1889, Mills G. Coursey
May 16, 1890, John W. Peden
February 28, 1894, Wm. E. Johnson
- 6 United States Inspectors Certificate, Joint License Pilot and
Engineer of Open Steam Launches, 1893
June 24, 1893, L. R. Jewett
July 29, 1893, Wm. W. Horton
- 7 Steamboat Pilot's Licenses and Certificates, 1856-1869
July 23, 1856, William Wilcox
April 17, 1865, Charles F. Buell

- September 1, 1865, Elisha S. Bidwell
March 23, 1866, Henry Bennet
September 1, 1866, Elisha S. Bidwell
March 15, 1867, Henry Bennet
September 1, 1867, Elisha S. Bidwell
September 18, 1867, Alonzo P. Berdsley
February 3, 1868, H. S. Bartlett
March 21, 1868, Henry Bennet
April 27, 1868, R. B. Brooks
May 22, 1868, Albert F. Bishop
July 7, 1868, James Butler
August 2, 1868, Henry G. Roath, Jr.
September 1, 1868, Elisha S. Bidwell
September 18, 1868, Alonzo P. Berdsley
April 28, 1869, R. B. Brooks
May 11, 1869, Henry Bennet
May 15, 1869, H. S. Bartlett
May 23, 1869, Albert F. Bishop
July 5, 1869, A. J. Bassett
July 8, 1869, James Butler
- 8 Steamboat Engineer's Certificate, October 2, 1866, John C. King
9 Certificate of Lost or Destroyed License, March 22, 1893, Geo. T. Fuller